

DE 00-191

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Restructuring Surcharge Compliance
Filing

Order NISI Approving Delay in Adjusting Restructuring Surcharge

O R D E R N O. 23,560

September 25, 2000

On September 1, 2000, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cooperative or Company) filed a letter and supporting testimony to maintain its current Restructuring Surcharge rate of \$0.00154 per kWh through December 31, 2000. The Cooperative proposes decreasing the Restructuring Surcharge on January 1, 2001 to \$0.00056 per kilowatt-hour in order to recover its 1999 Restructuring Costs by September 30, 2001. In isolation, this represents about a 0.8 percent rate decrease. The Cooperative also requests that the Commission waive the requirement to file Compliance Tariff pages until after the Commission issues an order in the Cooperative's other January 1, 2001 rate petitions, which are expected to be filed on or before December 1, 2000.

Staff has reviewed the filing and, based upon the expected small size of the rate decrease, agrees the change to the Restructuring Surcharge should be delayed until January 1, 2001 to avoid multiple rate changes for customers and the corresponding administrative burden for the Company. Staff recommends approving

the delay at this time but postponing a decision on the proposed rate change to the Restructuring Surcharge to allow the Commission Staff the opportunity to audit the Cooperative's restructuring expenses. It is Staff's recommendation to issue an order on the proposed change to the Restructuring Surcharge simultaneous with the Cooperative's other January 1, 2001 rate filings.

The Commission agrees with Staff that the Cooperative's filing to delay adjustment of its Restructuring Surcharge is reasonable. We also find it to be more practical to issue an order on the rate change itself following our Audit Staff's review of Restructuring Surcharge expenses, and will, therefore, delay issuing an order on this portion of the Cooperative's request until a later date.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative continue its current Restructuring Surcharge of \$0.00154 until December 31, 2000 and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than October 2, 2000 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before October 12, 2000; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than October 12, 2000; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than October 17, 2000; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective October 25, 2000, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the request for a waiver of the requirement to file compliance tariff pages is approved.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-fifth day of September, 2000.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary